

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 20, 2013

RAISED BILL No. 6391 AAC THE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.

Testimony of Marissa Patterson, IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6391

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Committee

My name is Marissa Patterson and I am a registered nurse and a Family Health nurse practitioner student in Connecticut graduating this coming May, 2013. I am writing in support of the Connecticut APRN Coalition request to amend the Practice Act.

As a student, I am very concerned about my potential to practice to the full scope of my abilities after graduation. The Collaborative Agreement requirement in CT does not exist in many other states, and has been shown to not play a role in patient safety, satisfaction, quality of care, or medical expenses. I have spoken with my own nurse practitioner preceptors and faculty who wish to go into independent practice, but are unable to due to the restrictions of the collaborative agreement.

More importantly, I am considering leaving the state of Connecticut after I graduate to practice in an APRN private practice in one of the many states that do not have this unnecessary requirement.

Collaboration with my physician colleagues is a matter of course for me. I seek their advice in the same matter I would seek the counsel of other medical APRN or PA colleagues with more experience than I.

I have studied the Institute of Medicine report and am strongly in support of Connecticut adopting standards in line with their recommendations. State legislatures should work to remove Practice Act barriers and allow nurse practitioners to practice with autonomous authority without risk of losing their practices due to the written agreement requirement.

Not only will this provide more availability of qualified primary care practitioners for patient care, it will make Connecticut a more attractive place of work for new APRN graduates and other potential employees.

I hope the CT General Assembly will approve this request and allow APRNs to practice to the full extent of their education and training. I know it will cause many of my fellow classmates to consider remaining in the Connecticut area for practice.

Thank you,

Marissa Patterson, R.N.
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